

START2

Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team 2 -
Region VIII



United States
Environmental Protection Agency

Contract No. 68-W-00-118

PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING REPORT

DENVER SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY
City and County of Denver, Colorado

TDD No. 0306-0003

OCTOBER 30, 2003



URS
OPERATING SERVICES, INC.

In association with: Tetra Tech EM, Inc.
URS Corporation
LT Environmental, Inc.
TN & Associates, Inc.
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October 30, 2003

Ms. Sabrina Forrest
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**SUBJECT: START2, EPA Region VIII, Contract No. 68-W-00-118, TDD No. 0306-0003
Pre-CERCLIS Screening Report for the Denver Smelting and Refining Company in
the City and County of Denver, Colorado**

Dear Ms. Forrest:

Attached is one copy of the final Pre-CERCLIS Screening Report for the Denver Smelting and Refining Company in the City and County of Denver, Colorado. This document is submitted for your review and comments.

If you have any questions, please call me at 303-291-8380.

Very truly yours,

URS OPERATING SERVICES, INC.



Becci Treitz (LT Environmental)
Environmental Scientist

attachments

cc: T. F. Staible/UOS w/o attachments
 File/UOS

PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING REPORT

DENVER SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY
City and County of Denver, Colorado

EPA Contract No. 68-W-00-118
TDD No. 0306-0003

Prepared By:
Becci Treitz (LT Environmental)
Environmental Scientist

URS Operating Services, Inc.
1099 18th Street, Suite 710
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Approved: _____

Sabrina Forrest, Site Assessment Manager, EPA, Region VIII

Date: 11/6/03

Approved: _____

T. F. Staible, START2 Program Manager, UOS

Date: 29 OCT 03

Approved: _____

Becci Treitz (LT Environmental), START2 Environmental Scientist

Date: 29 Oct 2003

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Sabrina Forrest

Site Assessment Manager, EPA Region VIII

URS OPERATING SERVICES, INC.

Becci Treitz
File (2 copies)

Environmental Scientist, LT Environmental, START2, EPA Region VIII
START2, EPA Region VIII

PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING REPORT

DENVER SMELTING AND REFINING COMPANY Denver City and County, Colorado

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Pre-CERCLIS (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System) screening of the Denver Smelting and Refining Company (Denver Smelter) site in the City and County of Denver, Colorado, has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of Technical Direction Document (TDD) No. 0306-0003 issued to URS Operating Services, Inc. (UOS) by the Region VIII office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This PreCERCLIS screening report is the result of information obtained from historical records; and from federal, state, and local agencies.

2.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this PreCERCLIS screening are to:

- Find historical ownership of the site, businesses located on the site, and uses of the site;
- Determine if any contamination remains from use of the site posing a threat to human health and/or the environment; and
- Determine receptor targets and applicable pathways.

3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

3.1 SITE LOCATION

The Denver Smelting and Refining Company, also known as National Smelting and Refining, was located at 1351 13th Street, City and County of Denver, Colorado, near the present intersection of Market Street and Speer Boulevard (Figure 1). The legal description of the site is 39.747410 north latitude and 105.001610 west longitude, T. 3 S., R. 68 W., Section 33, block 242 lot 8 (City and County of Denver 2003a; U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 2003a). The site area is located directly southwest of Cherry Creek, and was an industrial area of Denver. The Denver Smelter occupied one building toward the north end of the block. There were many businesses surrounding the smelter, including a foundry, an auto body repair shop, a creamery, and a hotel (Sanborn Maps 1903 and 1921 through 1950; Denver Householders Directory 1924 through 1958; Bresser's Cross-index

Directory of Greater Denver 1957 through 1974; Cole's Directory of Greater Denver 1975 through 1978; Colorado State Business Directory 1930 through 1956). The land is now occupied by a paved street (part of Speer Boulevard), a parking lot, and a grassy median. The uses of the surrounding area presently include a school and commercial, recreational, and some residential use (Figure 2).

3.2 SITE HISTORY/ PREVIOUS WORK

The building in which National Smelting and Refining Company conducted business was built around 1905 and K&B Packing and Provision occupied the building from 1905-1936. The building was used by K&B Packing and Provision as a garage from 1927 to 1936. National Smelting and Refining Company occupied the building from 1937 to 1976. National Smelter manufactured high grade babbitts, solders, pig lead, pig and bar tin, antimony, zinc, linotype, stereotype, monotype, and all grades of metal (Sanborn Maps 1903 and 1921 through 1950; Denver Householders Directory 1924 through 1958; Bresser's Cross-index Directory of Greater Denver 1957 through 1974; Cole's Directory of Greater Denver 1975 through 1978; Colorado State Business Directory 1930 through 1956). Specific operations for the facility are not known.

In 1976 the property was bought by Denver Urban Renewal and then was sold to Auraria Campus in 1984. The buildings surrounding the property were demolished in 1975 by Denver Urban Renewal, and it is assumed that the site building was demolished during this time as well (City and County of Denver 2003b). How the building was demolished, methods of disposal of demolished materials, and removal methods used at the site are unknown (City and County of Denver 2003b). Buildings were being demolished because of structural failures and to redevelop the area (City and County of Denver 2003b). The property was sold to the City and County of Denver in 1989 (City and County of Denver 2003a). Currently the property is part of a paved parking lot, Speer Boulevard, and a grassy median (Photos 3, 4, and 5) (Figure 2) (URS Operating Services, Inc. (UOS) 2003a).

There have not been any previous investigations done at the site. Near the site, the City and County of Denver has tested for metals at 14th Street and Curtis in 2002 and at 13th Street and Champa in 2000. Both areas tested had low detections of metals (UOS 2003b).

3.3 SITE CHARACTERISTICS

3.3.1 Physical Geography

The site is located on a flat area in Denver near Cherry Creek and the intersection of Speer Boulevard and Market Street. The elevation is approximately 5,280 feet above sea level. The site is part of Speer Boulevard with its grassy median and a parking lot in a commercial area of Denver, and is surrounded by other streets, open grassy areas, and Cherry Creek. To the west and south of the site is the Auraria Campus. The area along Cherry Creek has been developed as a bike/walking path (UOS 2003).

3.3.2 Geology/Hydrogeology

The site is located within the Denver Basin. The Denver Basin consists of a series of four formations: the Denver, Arapahoe, Laramie, and Fox Hills formations, which total approximately 2,000 feet in thickness. The geology of the Denver area is comprised of a top layer of Eolian sand and silt. Below the Eolian sand are Holocene alluvial sand, gravel, and clay deposits. The Bull Lake and Pinedale formations are below the Eolian and Holocene layers and are comprised of stratified sand, gravel, and clay. Below the Bull Lake and Pinedale formations are the Slocum, Verdos, and Rocky Flats alluvium, which are all comprised of poorly sorted gravel, sand, and clay (Colorado Geological Survey 2003).

The Denver Smelter site is located in the South Platte River Basin, where an alluvial, unconfined aquifer is contained within sedimentary rock consisting of interbedded sandstone, siltstone, and shales. The saturated water table is at 20 feet below ground surface (bgs) in the vicinity of the site and groundwater flows toward the South Platte River. Below the saturated zone are the Denver, Arapahoe, Laramie, and Fox Hills bed rock aquifers (Colorado Ground-Water Association 1999).

3.3.3 Hydrology

Surface water runoff from the site flows into storm water drains along Speer Boulevard, and some overflow could go into Cherry Creek (UOS 2003). Cherry Creek is approximately 175

feet northeast of the site. From the site Cherry Creek flows north approximately one-half mile to its confluence with the South Platte River. The South Platte River continues to flow north and east to Nebraska. The drainage area for Cherry Creek near Denver is 409.0 square miles and the mean annual flow from 1943 to 2001 is 22.58 cubic feet per second (USGS 2003b). The South Platte River is within one-half mile of the site and has a drainage area of 3,861 square miles. The mean annual stream flow for the South Platte River in Denver is 354.2 cubic feet per second from 1896 to 2001. The site is in the 100-year floodplain of Cherry Creek (Federal Emergency Management Agency 2003).

3.3.4 Meteorology

The Denver Smelter site is located in a dry climate zone. The mean annual precipitation as totaled from the University of Delaware (UD) database is 11.18 inches. The net annual precipitation as calculated from precipitation and evapotranspiration data obtained from the UD database is 1.5 inches (University of Delaware, Center for Climate Research, Department of Geography 1986). The 2-year, 24-hour rainfall event for this area is 1.5 inches (Dunne, Thomas and Luna B. Leopold 1978).

4.0 PRELIMINARY PATHWAY ANALYSIS

4.1 WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

A smelter was operated in the building on site and emitted particulate matter from a smoke stack. Lead may have been present in the particulate matter emitted into the air, along with other such metals as aluminum, zinc, and antimony. Most likely there were no pollution control devices given the time of operation. Solid wastes in flues, roasters, and baghouses used for the smelting and refining process may have been left on site when the building was demolished (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2003). The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) air records department and hazardous waste records department were contacted and no permits or records were found for National Smelting and Refining or for any business located at 1351 13th Street in Denver (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) 2003).

4.2 AIR PATHWAY

Emissions from smelters that refine lead can include organic vapors, sulfur oxides, and dioxins from roasting operations, as well as 1,3-butadiene, a known carcinogen (Environmentally Conscious Manufacturing Strategic Initiative Group 2003). The current prevailing wind direction for the area is from the north and northeast to the south and southwest (U.S. Department of Commerce 1983). The year 2000 population is listed in the table below by distance from the site (U.S. Department of Commerce 2000).

Radius	2000 population
0-0.25 mile	1,391
0.25-0.5 mile	1,890
0.5-1.0 mile	7,108
1.0-2.0 miles	81,102
2.0-3.0 miles	101,979
3.0-4.0 miles	112,533
Total	306,003

Federally listed Threatened (T) and Endangered (E) species that may be present in the City and County of Denver are the bald eagle (T), whooping crane (E), Preble's meadow jumping mouse (T), and Ute ladies' tresses (T) (EPA 2001).

Three types of wetlands are found within the four-mile radius of the site; Palustrine-Forested, Palustrine-Emergent, and Palustrine-Scrub-Shrub. Wetlands acreage within a four-mile radius is listed in the following table (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003).

Radius	Palustrine-Forested	Palustrine-Emergent	Palustrine-Scrub-Shrub	Total Wetland area in acres
0.25 mile	None	None	None	None
0.5 mile	None	None	None	None
1.0 mile	None	0.72	0.94	1.66
2.0 mile	2.05	None	0.30	2.35
3.0 mile	0.16	1.25	0.36	1.77
4.0 mile	None	4.98	8.83	13.81
Total	2.21	6.95	10.43	19.59

4.3 GROUNDWATER PATHWAY

Contamination in groundwater related to smelting activities at the site could be a concern based on the persistence of arsenic and lead in water. There are many groundwater wells in the area, most of which are monitoring wells. Most of Denver is supplied with drinking water from the Denver municipal water supply. There are a few domestic and municipal wells in the area, most of which supply water for non-residential entities such as churches, office buildings, and the Auraria Campus (Colorado State Engineers Office 2003). According to Denver Water, some of the locations with groundwater wells are also connected to the Denver Water supply, such as the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church, who no longer uses the well (UOS 2003c, UOS 2003e). According to Auraria Campus Facilities Management, wells on campus are non-potable water and only used for irrigation. Auraria campus does test their groundwater for metals annually and there have not been any detections (UOS 2003d).

4.4 SURFACE WATER PATHWAY

Cherry Creek is approximately 175 feet northeast from the site. Waste from the site could have entered Cherry Creek from the precipitation of particulates out of the air pathway or from an overland pathway from runoff or by disposal of wastes directly into Cherry Creek. Cherry Creek flows into the South Platte River about one-half mile downstream from the site (Figure 1). Confluence Park surrounds the confluence of Cherry Creek and the South Platte River and a recreational bike and walking path follows Cherry Creek in the vicinity of the site. People have been observed kayaking, tubing, and fishing along the South Platte River within the 15-mile downstream limit (UOS 2003).

Federally listed Threatened (T) and Endangered (E) species that maybe present in the City and County of Denver are the bald eagle (T), whooping crane (E), Preble's meadow jumping mouse (T), and Ute ladies' tresses (T) (EPA 2001).

There are three sections of Palustrine-Emergent wetlands within the 15-mile downstream limit; one 1.3 miles downstream with a frontage of 0.11 miles, one 5.7 miles downstream with a frontage of 0.12 miles, and one 7.0 miles downstream with a frontage of 0.11 miles for a total wetlands distance of 0.34 miles (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003).

4.5 SOIL EXPOSURE PATHWAY

Scrap metal could be present in the soil from when the site was in operation or from when the building was demolished. Currently a paved parking lot and Speer Boulevard with its grassy median cover the site. To the west of the site is the Auraria Campus, where there are several recreational playing fields. Along Cherry Creek and the South Platte River is a bike/walking path that is used by people of all ages. The path is concrete with intermittent grassy areas along the side (Photos 1 and 2). The area surrounding the site has been highly redeveloped in the past 20 years (Figure 2). Many people frequent the area and approximately 10,389 people live within a one-mile radius of the site (U.S. Department of Commerce 2000).

Federally listed Threatened (T) and Endangered (E) species for the City and County of Denver are the bald eagle (T), whooping crane (E), Preble's meadow jumping mouse (T), and Ute ladies' tresses (T) (EPA 2001).

There are two types of wetlands within a one-mile radius, Palustrine-Emergent at 0.72 acres and Palustrine- Scrub-Shrub at 0.94 acres for a total of 1.66 acres of wetlands (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003).

5.0 SUMMARY

The Denver Smelting and Refining Company, also known as National Smelting and Refining, operated as a smelter at the site from 1937 to 1976. The site is now a paved parking lot, a portion of Speer Boulevard, and a part of a grassy median. Potential sources of contamination from the site include lead babbitt, zinc, and other metals. Specific operations for the facility are not known. There is the possibility that some contamination in the form of persistent metals such as arsenic and lead could still exist in the soil or in the shallow groundwater from smelting waste. There are no records of air or hazardous waste permits for the site. Currently, the site does not show signs of visible waste from the smelter. The demolition method for the building and how the building demolition waste was disposed of is unknown. Cherry Creek is directly northeast of the site and is a recreational area for biking and walking. The Auraria Campus athletic fields are located to the west of the site and many people frequent the area. Confluence Park where Cherry Creek flows into the South Platte River is downstream of the site. Water recreation activities, such as kayaking, tubing, and fishing occur on the South Platte River.

6.0 LIST OF REFERENCES

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URS Operating Services, Inc. (UOS). 2003b. Telephone conversation with Debbie Gomez of City and County of Denver Environmental Department regarding any environmental investigations in the area of Market Street and Speer Boulevard. October 23, 2003.

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URS Operating Services, Inc (UOS). 2003e. Telephone conversation with Father Tom Jost of the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church regarding groundwater well use. October, 29, 2003.



Legend

- N Speer Blvd. Streets, 1999
- N. Speer Blvd. Streets, Sanborn (1929-1950)
- Parcels, Sanborn (1929-1950)
- Railroads, Sanborn (1929-1950)

400 0 400
SCALE: 1" = 400'



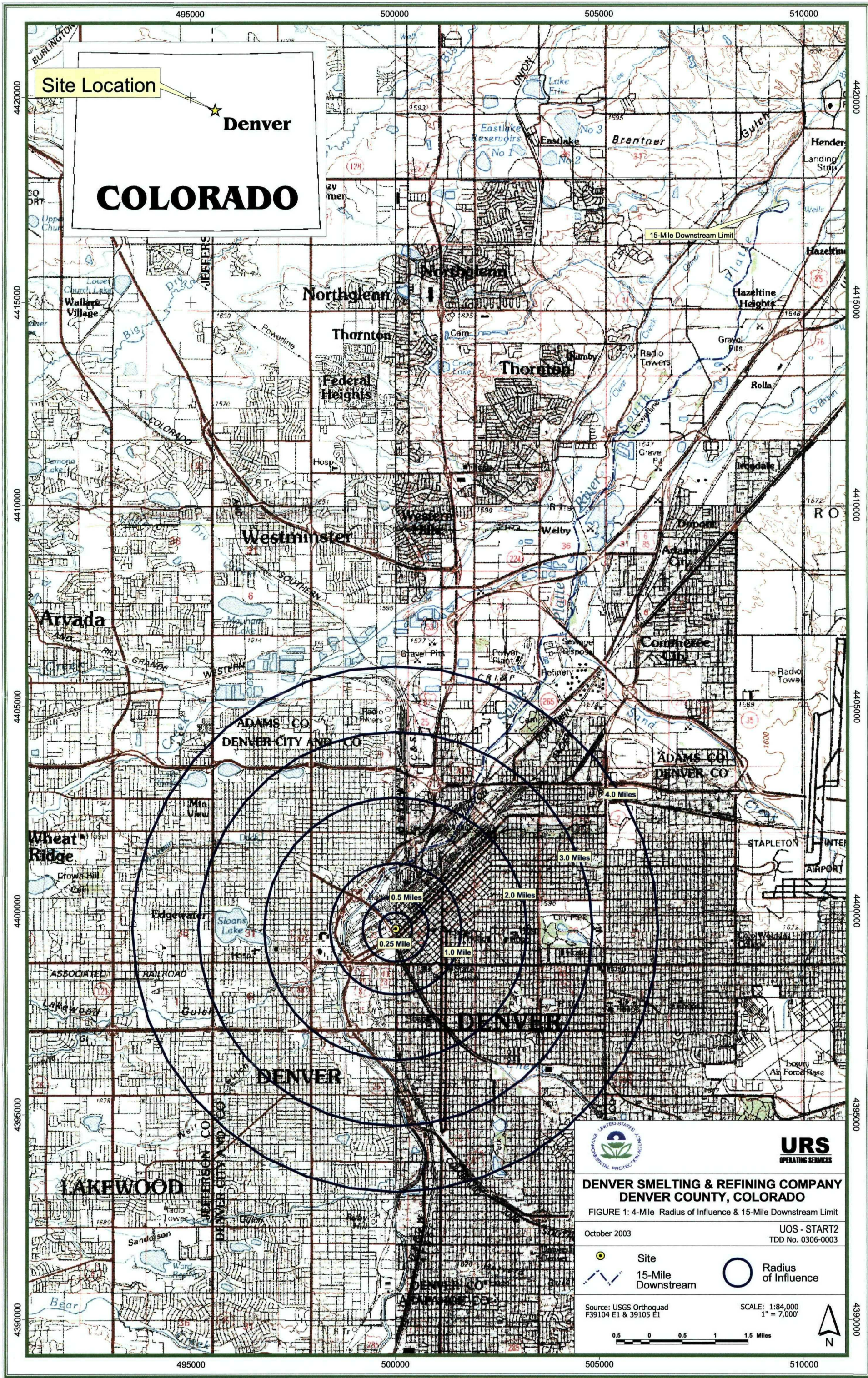
Preliminary Assessment

TDD No. 0306-0003

Denver Smelting and Refining
Denver, Colorado
Site Location Map
Figure 2

October 2003

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APPENDIX A

**Pre-CERCLIS Screening Assessment
Checklist/Decision Form**

PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST/DECISION FORM

This checklist can assist the site investigator during the Pre-CERCLIS screening. It will be used to determine whether further steps in the site investigation process are required under CERCLA. Use additional sheets, if necessary.

Checklist Preparer: Becci Treitz 21 August 2003
(Name/Title) (Date)
1099 18th Street Denver, CO 80202 303-291-8380
(Address) (Phone)
Becci Treitz@urscorp.com
(E-Mail Address)

Site Name: Denver Smelting and Refining Company, also known as National Smelting and Refining

Previous Names (if any): NA

Site Location: 1351 13th Street
Denver , CO 80202 -
(City) (ST) (Zip)

Latitude: 39.747410 North

Longitude: 105.001610 West

If "yes" is marked, please explain below.

Complete the following checklist. YES NO

1. Does the site already appear in CERCLIS? **NO**
2. Is the release from products that are part of the structure of, and result in exposure within, residential buildings or businesses or community structures? **NO**
3. Does the site consist of a release of a naturally occurring substance in its unaltered form, or altered solely through naturally occurring processes or phenomena, from a location where it is naturally found? **NO**
4. Is the release into a public or private drinking water supply due to deterioration of the system through ordinary use? **NO**
5. Is some other program actively involved with the site (i.e., another Federal, State, or Tribal program)? **NO**
6. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (i.e., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)? **NO**
7. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site excluded by policy considerations (e.g., deferral to RCRA Corrective Action)? **NO**
8. Is there sufficient documentation that clearly demonstrates that there is no potential for a release that could cause adverse environmental or human health impacts (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, EPA approved risk assessment completed)? **NO**

Please explain all "yes" answer(s), attach additional sheets if necessary: _____

A-1 Site Determination: ~ Enter the site into CERCLIS. Further assessment is recommended (explain below). ~ The site is not recommended for placement into CERCLIS (explain below).

DECISION/DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:

Regional EPA Reviewer:	_____	_____

Print Name/Signature	_____	Date
State Agency/Tribe:	_____	_____

Print Name/Signature	_____	Date

A-2

APPENDIX B

Photolog



PHOTO 1
Cherry Creek walking and biking path.



PHOTO 2
Runners along the Cherry Creek path



PHOTO 3

Speer Boulevard at the location of the site.



PHOTO 4

View of the Auraria Campus across Speer Boulevard. The playing fields are between the parking lot and the Tivoli building in the background.



PHOTO 5

Speer Boulevard, paved parking lot, and grassy median at the location of the site.